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well-knit single unit, which would be able to bear the expenditure involved in rural electrification. The Government have therefore been acquiring private electricity supply undertakings according to a regulated programme. After acquisition, they have been putting into execution schemes for the improvement of the units acquired, and the extension of supplies therefrom to neighbouring areas. Unfortunately, owing to lack of funds, Government have been compelled to go slow on the acquisition programme and in practice will be able to take over only those undertakings which are not functioning satisfactorily, and are not giving proper service to the public, or those which must necessarily be owned and operated by Government, immediately, so as to execute major and useful Government schemes of extension of supply in the areas concerned. The small amount of Rs. 20 lakhs provided for the acquisition of Electricity Undertakings is intended to meet the balance of compensation due to be paid in the current year in respect of undertakings already taken over, and the cost of acquisition of two or three uneconomic private undertakings which are not working satisfactorily. This procedure, I am afraid, will have to be continued for sometime. We will be needing all the funds we can obtain for new generation projects and cannot spare much for acquisition, as such, of private undertakings.

"The Electricity Department has been working very satisfactorily with the avowed object of supplying power to all connected loads continuously and efficiently. But, unfortunately, Dame Nature has been against us from time to time and has denied us supplies of water in the power reservoirs, so essential for the generation of the power needed. This led to the imposition of cuts on power consumption, cuts which the Government were most reluctant to impose. Government were compelled to do so, so that the power available may be shared by all concerned, the full demands being met in the case of essential supplies such as agricultural pump-sets, hospitals, water-supply and drainage schemes and street lighting. No favouritism, whatever, was shown in the working of the cuts, and I am glad to say that, on the whole, the public have co-operated with the Government fully, realising that the power available should be equitably and equally shared instead of a few favoured persons being given more than others. With the further development of the grid in which one unit can come to the aid of the other, with the completion of the existing programme and the taking up of new schemes contemplated, and with public co-operation, the Electricity Department, to whose loyal efficiency I would like to pay a tribute, hopes to continue to give the maximum service to the public of this State."

V.—RECTIFICATION OF AN ERROR IN COUNTING OF VOTES.

MR. SPEAKER:—" Before proceeding further I wish to announce to the House that the Secretary has informed me that there is a mistake in counting the votes on the cut motion on the Harijan Uplift Demand. It appears, that in counting the members against the cut motion, they left out Mr. Ramesam's vote. 5-40 p.m.

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If his vote is also included, the number of votes against the cut motion will be 150 and not 149 [a] as declared by me earlier. I hope the House gives permission to record this in the proceedings."

* Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, if you say you have not given your ruling, I would like to quote a paragraph from a book by Sir Gilbert Campion."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I have given a ruling but let me hear what the Leader of the Opposition has to say."

* Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" I shall read the paragraph from the book by Sir Gilbert Campion regarding this. It is on page 181. It reads thus: 'It also occasionally happens that a Member in the course of a division finds himself voting in the wrong lobby. If he defers raising the matter until after the division, the inference from the precedents is that his request for the correction of his error will be refused. If, on the other hand, he proceeds to vote in the other lobby as well, there are precedents in favour of the rectification of the division list at his request, made at a later opportunity on the same day or even on a subsequent day'."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" When was the book published?"

* Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" That will not very much matter, Sir. It was published in 1950. The author is an authority on Parliamentary Practice. That is why I have quoted him, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" That is why I want to quote from the latest edition (15th Edition) of May's Parliamentary Practice. I will quote the relevant portion—

'On 11th November 1912, it was stated that three Members had inadvertently voted in the wrong lobby on an amendment on 1st November. The Speaker, who was asked whether the division list could be rectified, said that under the old system a Member who said that he had not heard the question put could ask to have the question put again to him and could then give his vote, but that under the system introduced in 1906 it was not necessary to hear the question put and that therefore the votes given on 1st November could not be rectified, and added that there was no means of correcting a vote inadvertently given wrongly, even if an immediate appeal were made to the Chair.'

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" That was in 1912, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" That is the latest position."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" It refers to a particular incident."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" No. The present position as stated in May is this. If a Member goes into a wrong lobby through inadvertence it is the rule in the House of Commons to hold the Member bound by the vote he has actually given.

" The hon. Member Mr. Kolkebail will now move the cut motion."

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[a] See page 187 supra

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SRI K. V. RAMESAM :—" Sir, I want to offer an explanation so far as the counting of votes is concerned . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" When I called the hon. Member Kolkebail, the hon. Member ought to have resumed his seat. Now let me hear what the hon. Member has to say."

SRI K. V. RAMESAM :—" I wanted to offer a personal explanation, Sir, on this incident. I supported the cut motion. But unfortunately there was no interval between your calling those in favour of the motion and those against it. I stood up when you were pleased to call the Members in favour of the motion, and then immediately you were pleased to call those against the cut motion. That was the difficulty. I am sorry for the incident, and this may be closed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is finding fault with the Chair. I gave enough time to both the sides. First I called those in favour of the motion and after a pause, I called those against the motion."

SRI K. V. RAMESAM :—" Immediately you called, ' those in favour of the motion ', I said I was supporting the motion. Probably I was not heard."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Therefore let him not find fault with the Chair and say that enough time was not given."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I may submit, Sir, it should not be taken as blaming the Chair. All that is meant is that the speed of the Speaker is different from the speed of the hon. Member." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. the Leader of the Opposition is putting it in another way." (Laughter.)

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, it is not blaming the Chair at all; we could not have intended it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member was confused. That is my opinion. Mr. Kolkebail will now move his cut motion."

IV.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—*cont.*

DEMAND XXVIII—ELECTRICITY—*cont.*

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—

> '*That the allotment of Rs.* 3,18,35,000 *under Demand XXVIII—Electricity be reduced by Rs.* 100.'

Sir, we have no doubt attained political freedom since 15th August 1947 but economically our condition has not improved a bit. This is entirely due to our rulers here in Madras as also at New Delhi. They have not taken care to mobilise all our resources, natural and other. It is hardly necessary now to emphasise the urgent need for the rapid industrialisation of the country. Without